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Book Reviews

Jerusalem in Bible Times. By LEWIS BAYLES PATON. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1908. Pages xii+167. \$1.

Ancient Jerusalem. By SELAH MERRILL. Illustrated. New York and Chicago: F. H. Revell Co., 1908. Pages 419. \$6.

Jerusalem. By GEORGE ADAM SMITH. 2 vols. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1908. Pages xx+498; xvi+631. \$7.50.

Jerusalem has a perpetual fascination for biblical students. Though merely an inland city, on no highway of commerce, it has a continuous history extending through three thousand years. Its only justification for its out-of-the-way location is its natural fortifications, its defensive qualities. Perched as it is on two or more hills it has been able to survive nearly twenty sieges, some of them totally destructive of its walls and buildings, and to withstand as many more severe military assaults. These batterings down and buildings up, through fully three thousand years, have almost hopelessly obliterated the earlier dimensions and walls of the city, and given students of its topography and history problems that will last for all time.

The place which archaeology is taking in the interpretation of ancient writings has turned attention anew to the value of investigating biblical sites. The recent activity of the Palestine Exploration Fund at Gezer, of the German Fund at Megiddo and Jericho, and of Harvard University at Samaria, are striking evidences of this new archaeological trend of biblical scholars. Though the "finds" have not been remarkable, they have flashed some light on the early customs of Canaan and its relation to its neighbors. These "finds" are being published in splendid volumes, which are laying before students a visual presentation of facts which may aid us in properly interpreting hitherto obscure portions of the Old Testament.

Professor Paton was the Director of the American School of Oriental Study and Research in Palestine during the year 1903-4. As a resident of the Holy City during nine months of that year, he put in his time industriously in a thorough investigation of its topography and history, especially within Bible times. By skilful use of the camera he secured a fine collection of photographs, many of which he reproduces in this book. These add greatly to the attractiveness of the volume and to the understanding of the text. Within a compass of twelve chapters the author covers the topography (chaps. 1-5) and the history (chaps. 6-12) of the city.

These chapters are succinct statements of the belief up to date of the best authorities, including Professor Paton himself, on each item. The two chapters (4 and 5) on "The City of David," and "Zion, Ophel, and Moriah," present the arguments very fairly and conclusively (as against Dr. Merrill) that these were the names attached to the southeast hill. It has been considered since the statements of Josephus gained credence, that the City of David, and Zion were to be identified with the southwest and higher hill of the group. Having concluded this—one of the most important topographical details—Professor Paton proceeds to a history of the city through successive periods down to the time of Christ. Though very condensed, the book is clear and to the point. It interprets with directness and force the full import of scores of Scripture passages. It is a valuable guide to the Holy City.

Dr. Selah Merrill, whose recent death is mentioned elsewhere in this number, occupied the position of U. S. consul at Jerusalem for sixteen years. He must have had superb opportunities for collecting information at first hand on any subject connected with Palestinian archaeology. His explorations, *East of the Jordan* and *Galilee in the Time of Christ* are already well known. His close relations with excavators and explorers have put him in a position to speak authoritatively on many questions. This volume is presented solely on his authority, except where he quotes in the text. There is no bibliography and no bibliographical detail to interrupt or aid the author in his statements. Personalities and criticism of the opinions of other writers are thus practically eliminated.

The first twenty-seven chapters (pp. 1-179) are practically a description of the approach of the army under Titus in 70 A. D., the location of its camps, its various assaults, its successful gains, and its capture of the city. The recital of the details of these processes is at the same time a study of the topographical and archaeological features of the campaign. Josephus is often quoted, and as an authority who can be trusted. Where Josephus speaks of the occurrences of his own day, this is perhaps true. But where he expresses an opinion of earlier events, he must be weighed in the balances.

The entire first half of the volume is profusely furnished with maps, charts, and plans of Jerusalem to illustrate almost every little detail of the movements of the troops of Titus, of the location of various public buildings, and of the several old walls which had been built in earlier times. These, too, are supplemented by a profusion of beautiful half-tone pictures of the modern buildings, walls, valleys, and the like—the best we have seen in any popular work. The last half of the book (chaps. xxviii-xli) is composed of a series of rather disconnected themes of an archaeological character, such as "Governors and Procurators" (xxviii), "The Tower of Antonia"

(xxx), "The Site and Building of the Temple" (xxxv), "Maktesh—The Market Place" (xxxviii), "Basilica" (xxxix), and "Nehemiah" (xl). Some of these, for example, "Basilica," have little to do with Jerusalem, and others read like notebook sketches. Nevertheless they are informing and interesting, especially when accompanied with such masterpieces of the photographer's art. Dr. Merrill's work differs from both the Smith and Paton volumes in that he locates "Zion," "the City of David," on the southwest hill. This supposition underlies his discussion of the topography of the lower half of the city and thus vitally modifies some of his interpretations of the biblical references to this height. The author leans rather heavily on Josephus and thus differs in several respects from the results achieved by the later school of archaeologists. The publishers have done a capital piece of work in the way of illustrations but we must protest against such heavy paper and such a high price in a book which appeals to popular favor.

Professor George Adam Smith has become a recognized authority on Palestine through his *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*. During a long succession of visits to Jerusalem he has familiarized himself with its topography and life. In the meantime, he has fully investigated its history, economics, and politics. He has embodied his results in these two portly volumes. We anticipated real delight in their reading and study—for some parts of them must be studied to be appreciated—and we are not disappointed. The first volume is broken into two books. Book I is a minute and painstaking investigation of the topography of Jerusalem, including its geology, earthquakes, springs, waters, hills, valleys, and walls. The one chief controversial question in Book I is that as to the location of "Zion, Ophel, and the City of David." In a masterful manner the author marshals the arguments of topography and archaeology, and finds these places identified with the East hill, just above Gihon, the present Virgin's Spring. An examination of all the biblical data and those of the Apocrypha shows that they wholly agree with the former conclusions. The hill was about as large as the primitive city of Gezer, and hence ample for the location of the Jebusite stronghold which David captured about the time of his becoming king of all Israel. Book II is a delightfully fresh discussion of the economics and politics of Jerusalem. Some of the material is here handled in a popular manner for the first time. The economic problems of a comparatively isolated and seaportless city are troublesome. The discussion follows in order: the ethnic and economic origins of Jerusalem; the city lands; the natural resources of the city; its commerce and imports; the royal revenues; estates, tribute, tithes, taxation; the temple

revenues, properties, and finance; trades, crafts, and industries; government and police; and "the multitude." The facts for these pages have been gathered from all available sources; from Josephus and other contemporaries, from Greek, Latin, and Arabian writers, and from the Bible. The last two chapters give a summary of the principal political events under the Romans, and during the war of independence, thus bringing the history down to 70 A.D. This section of the work is a valuable contribution to the history of this old city.

Volume II (Book III) contains a history of Jerusalem, with such parts of the special topography as are appropriate to particular periods, from its first mention in the Tel el-Amarna tablets of *ca.* 1400 B.C. down to "The Jerusalem of the Gospels." The first 366 pages are a retreatment of the history of Israel as enacted in and about Jerusalem. The author has been alert to every ray of light shed upon it by contemporaries, but did not have the advantage of the new Elephantine inscriptions of the fifth century B.C. Every page shows that he has not only laid all literature tributary to him, but that he has, in many cases, pursued with zest textual-critical problems of no mean importance.

One of the fullest and richest chapters in the book is that which deals with "The Jew and the Greek" (chap. xv). The invasion, policies, and conquests of Alexander the Great are treated with gratifying fulness on the basis of every scrap of information available. The tremendous growth and influence of the Greeks crop out in the next chapter, "Jerusalem under the Maccabees and the Hasmoneans, 168-38 B.C." This life and death struggle—the tragedy of Jewish history—is painted in the most vivid colors. The heroism of the Maccabees flashes out with new brilliancy under Dr. Smith's estimates and portrayal. The book of Daniel does service here that immortalizes the valor of the Jews. Nearly fifty pages are devoted to the character, the events, and the achievements of Herod the Great. Jerusalem, when touched by his magic wand, became a city of artistic beauty, although it sheltered one of the best hated characters in all history. The story of his career is told with force and grace, though true to what we know of his life.

This work is our masterpiece on Jerusalem. It will be the authority until extensive excavations materially change the calculations and conclusions of archaeologists and historians. We congratulate the author and Bible students on its issuance in this opportune time.

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